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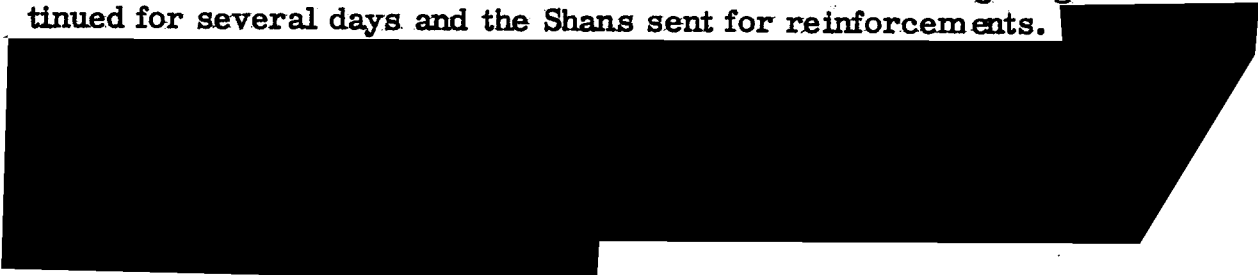
STATUS REPORT
OF THE
TASK FORCE SOUTHEAST ASIA

COVERT ANNEX-BURMA
(6 September - 19 September)

Ethnic Minority Insurgency

1. Indications of renewed operations by the Burma Army against the dissident Shans and the Karen National Defense Organizations have been received during the reporting period. These operations might possibly be the result of the Shan's rejection of the Burma Army ultimatum which called for the complete surrender of the Shan dissidents by 31 August or else risk complete annihilation (See Covert Annex-Burma, 23 August-5 September, paragraph 3).

2. A Burma Army Unit of 150 men reportedly attacked the Shans on 8 September at Mong Yawn (N 20-12, E 99-25). The fighting continued for several days and the Shans sent for reinforcements.

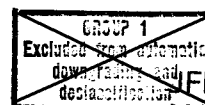


3. A report dated 29 August indicated that a Shan major in Thailand was collecting a force of approximately seven battalions at Mong Ko (N 20-34, E 99-58) in order to have sufficient strength to conduct raids on Burmese Army camps. No definite date had been set for the commencement of these attacks but the Burmese Army was reported on 6 September to have sent 200 troops into the area surrounding Tachilik in preparation for the Shan offensive.

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4. Indications of a Burma Army buildup in the Karen State have also been noted and during late August and early September approximately 1,000 Burma Army troops were reported in Papun (N 18-04, E 97-27) to reinforce the Burma Army garrison there. Burma Army patrols were also reported in the area around Mepa (N 17-47, E 97-40) and Hlaingbwe (N 17-18, E 97-51).

5. As previously reported (Covert Annex-Burma, 9 August-22 August) the Burma Army is continuing its operations against the Kachin Independence Army (KIA). The First and the Fourth Kachin Rifles were transferred to the Kachin State in late August for action against the KIA insurgents. The Burma Army's plan reportedly is to contain the KIA movement by isolating them in the Sinlum area (N 24-15, E 97-30). Thus far the Army forces have avoided major engagements with the KIA, firing back only in self defense, but have kept the pressure on to force the KIA to retreat to the remote areas of Sinlum.

6. No significant changes have been reported on the other ethnic insurgent groups operating in Burma during the reporting period.

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